

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A printing method, comprising the steps of:
 - receiving data at a printer;
 - determining whether a URL or external network option is enabled;
 - detecting if a network address in the received data;
 - sending on the Internet or other network an access request for a document to the network address;
 - retrieving the document from the network address; and
 - printing the document.
2. The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the external network address is a URL.
3. The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the detecting a network address step comprises detecting a barcode in the received data and translating the barcode to the network address.
4. The method as defined in claim 3, wherein, if the URL or other external access option is not enabled, then printing the untranslated barcode.
5. The method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of enabling/disabling the URL or external network access option.
6. The method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of presenting a display to a user or control entity to enable/disable the URL or external network access option.
7. The method as defined in claim 6, wherein the display is provided from a printer driver.

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